

Message Text

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13

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 IO-12 SNM-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 OMB-01 RSR-01 AID-20 /113 W
----- 006598

R 221245 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3390

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L KABUL 3778

EO 11652, GDS

TAGS: PFOR, AF, IR

SUBJ: CONVERSATION WITH PRIMIN SHAFIQ - HELMAND WATERS TREATY

1. I CALLED UPON PRIME MINISTER SHAFIQ MAY 20 FOR TOUR D' HORIZON PRIOR DEPARTURE ON HOME LEAVE. CONVERSATION LASTED NEARLY TWO HOURS AND COVERED HELMAND WATERS TREATY, RGA PROBLEMS, AND NARCOTICS AMONG OTHER SUBJECTS. THIS CABLE REPORTS DISCUSSION ON HELMAND WATERS TREATY; OTHER SUBJECTS SEPTELS.

2. SHAFIQ DISCUSSED PROBLEMS CONFRONTING RGA REGARDING RATIFICATION HELMAND TREATY AND ADMITTED PROCEDURE WAS FAR LONGER AND MORE DIFFICULT THAN HE HAD ANTICIPATED. HE SAID HE SPENDING THREE HOURS A DAY WITH DEPUTIES (AND IN PROCESS LEARNING CONSIDERABLE ABOUT THEIR MOTIVATIONS, REASONING, ETC.) AS RESULT, EVERYTHING ELSE HAS NOT ONLY BEEN SLOWED, BUT NUMBER OF THINGS HAD TO BE DONE IN ORDER AVOID ANY POSSIBLE OFFENSE TO PARLIAMENT WHICH WOULD NORMALLY NOT HAVE BEEN NECESSARY. (AT THIS POINT, PRIMIN CLEARLY HINTED THAT RGA' S MEASURES TAKEN AGAINST CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY CHURCH FELL INTO THIS CATEGORY.) SHAFIQ WAS PLAINLY DISCOURAGED BY FACT HIS TIME-TABLE HAD GONE SO AWRY BUT WAS NOT PESSIMISTIC. HE IS, HOWEVER,
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MORE AWARE THAN EVER OF MERCURIAL QUALITIES OF DEPUTIES AND COMMENTED THAT HE WAS CONDUCTING POLITICS DAY BY DAY RATHER THAN IN SYSTEMATIC FASHION HE HAD FIRST ENVISAGED.

3. HE STILL CONFIDENT HELMAND TREATY WILL BE RATIFIED BUT ADMITTED HIS CONFIDENCE WAS BASED ON EVERYTHING BEING NORMAL. HE SAID THAT ANY ABNORMAL EVENTS, PROVOCATION, OR ARREST OF A DEPUTY COULD HAVE UNFORSEEABLE CONSEQUENCES. NEUMANN

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